

Lincoln School Parents' Association Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2009

[Note: Kate Scanlon addressed the group during the New Families Orientation beginning at 8:30am, so the Principal's report (outlined below) was given before the official call to order of the LSPA at 9:15am.]

Secretary's Report:

The minutes from the LSPA meeting held on June 3, 2009 were distributed and approved.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's reports ending June 30 and August 31st were reviewed and approved. The total expenses budgeted for the year were \$28,250 and the total expenses for the year-to-date ending June 30 were \$32,119.23. The closing balance for June 2009 was \$31,314.61. Actual Revenue of \$35,339.90 exceeded the budget (of \$28,850.00) by almost \$6,500, driven by positive variances from the Direct Appeal, Matching Gifts, Boxtops, and the T-shirt Sale.

Expenses through August 31st were \$8,218.91. The biggest expense was the allocation of the Class Teachers/Specialists funding of \$6,300.00, an approved increase from last year's budget. (As approved by the LSPA at the June 3, 2009 meeting, 22 teachers and 8 specialists will each receive \$200.00 and 3 reading specialists will receive \$100.00 each.) The \$812.50 expense for Speakers was for Michael Fallon, a very popular speaker who is coming to the district in November 2009 (more detail under Co-Presidents' Report, below.)

Susan Fagerstrom explained that she and Jen Pagan are now sharing the role of Treasurer so that transitions should be smoother and "institutional knowledge" should be retained. Susan will be managing the accounting and overall finances, while Jen will handle all of the checking.

Bridget Stump also wanted to thank all of the parents who shopped on the Wilson Farms Day – approximately \$2,500.00 in revenue was generated as a result. Some discussion ensued as to other affinity programs (such as Stop & Shop's) that allow a certain % of purchases to be designated to a school. More information will follow on these affinity programs and any guidelines, as the LSPA would not want to bias or skew support to or from local businesses.

If anyone has receipts to submit for reimbursement, please go to www.lincolnspsa.org, complete the form, and send to Jen Pagan for tax filing.

Please refer to the Treasurer's Reports 06/01/09-06/30/09 and 08/31/09 for further details about revenue and expenses.

Principal's Report:

During Kate Scanlon's time with new parents and her review of the Lincoln School handbook, she also discussed the positive impact new technology has had in the school. With the money the LSPA approved last year for the purchase of one more All-in-One Promethean Board, she was able to secure 2 Eno "white boards" for the same amount. These are much less expensive but can utilize the Promethean software. Therefore, in addition to the two already in use by Mr. DeBenedictis and the one shared in the 4th grade classrooms, one new Eno board will go to Penny Haggerty's 2nd grade class and the other will be shared by the 3rd grade classes. The district is purchasing many of these same boards, so system-wide training will be easy to facilitate. In addition, the district is hiring a training coach who will help integrate technology into the daily curriculum of grades 3 through 5. The coach will begin work in the 5th grade classrooms.

There are 22 classes and 449 children enrolled as we begin the new year. This is almost the same as the 2008-2009 school year, but the K and Grade 1 classes are smaller (~17-18 students per class.)

In addition to new staff appointments announced at the end of last year, Erin McCue joined as a new teacher in grade K, Lauren Garneau is the new school psychologist, 3 new All-Day K aides were added, as well as a technology specialist, a 0.3 reading specialist, and a new cafeteria worker.

Welcome Back Dinner:

Shauneen Donlon and Pam Balfanz shared that the Welcome Back Dinner is scheduled for Wed., September 16 from 5-7:30pm. Just like previous years, D'Agostino's would be catering and a DJ would keep things hopping. Pam and Shauneen still need help with set-up and clean-up, so please contact them if you are able and interested to help.

Technology Update:

Jen Degnan reported that the new LSPA website, www.lincolnspace.org, is continually adding very useful information, like a pdf of key sections of the handbook, direct appeal information and a path to pay on-line via PayPal. Soon, a full array of forms will be available for download from the site.

In this school year, effort will be given to help update the Lincoln school site, which is out-dated compared to the LSPA site but is also the more common pathway for new parents looking for news and information. The committee will also focus on research and support for teacher's needs for their own sites, blogs, etc.

If anyone has suggestions or comments for the LSPA site, Jen encouraged feedback to be sent to her at web@lincolnspace.org

Finally, Chuck Pickelhaupt is the district liaison for Lincoln and is working on the Tech Fair – more to come in the upcoming months.

Cool Winchester:

Ingrid Geiss explained the environmental initiative going on in Winchester, one of 11 cities across Massachusetts to participate in this pilot program. The process is to form "Eco Teams" comprised of 5-8 members (friends or strangers) and a leader. Using the book *Low Carbon Diet* by David Gershen (available at Bookends), each team member calculates his/her own household's carbon footprint. Using the ideas and the support of other team members through meetings and get-togethers, the aim is to see each household reduce their footprint by 25%.

A sign-up sheet was passed around, but any questions can be directed to Ingrid.

The LincLetter:

Ann Olmsted provided a quick overview on the LincLetter schedule. The letter is published on Wednesdays, so any news should be submitted to Ann or Aylin Flanagan by Friday of the preceeding week. The rotating schedule of "typists" [thank you to all who have volunteered] will be published in each newsletter, listing the next 1 or 2 typists in the rotation. The committee is also exploring the use of an email system like Constant Contact as a value-added expenditure, and they will make a recommendation to the LSPA if appropriate.

There are still ~50 families who have not provided email addresses to receive the LincLetter electronically. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please provide your email address to Laura Steenburgh at lsteenburgh@gmail.com

Co-President's Report:

Bridget Stump provided a more detailed update on Michael Fallon, one of the district's key speakers for this year. His talk on diversity and acceptance of differences will be given district-wide to grades 3-5 at McCall Middle School on November 16th. There is also a parent component, currently scheduled for the same date but in the evening. Note that the date and location have been shifting, so look for a communication with final event information will be published.

General Announcements:

Lauren Garneau, the new school psychologist, introduced herself to the LSPA. She had spent 5 years in the Westwood school district before coming to Lincoln. She has been spending her first few weeks meeting students in all settings – in the class and at lunch and recess – and is looking forward to helping students and teachers create the best learning environment.

The next LSPA meeting is scheduled for October 8th at 8:30 a.m. in the school cafeteria. All Lincoln school parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Shepard.